

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises ~~a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone~~ an estrogen-binding domain of an estrogen receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor G-CSF receptor, a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor, or a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) and amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor ~~or a proliferation inducing domain thereof~~ that, upon self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a blood cell.

2. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the second polypeptide comprises the ~~entire G-CSF~~ granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor.

19. – 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The fusion protein of ~~claim 19~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~mutant G-CSF receptor is~~ second polypeptide comprises the granulocyte colony

stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residue 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type G-CSF granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor.

22. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The fusion protein of ~~claim 23~~ claim 1, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor is second polypeptide comprises the granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) as well as and amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type G-CSF granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor.

25. – 27. (Canceled)